32

War Office, 9th — February, 1779.

SIR,

BY Virtue of the Authority given to me by an Act paſſed in this Seſſion of Parliament, which has the following Title;

> " An Act for repealing an Act made in the laſt Seſſion of Par-
> " liament, intitled, An Act for the more eaſy and better recruiting
> " of His Majeſty's Land Forces and Marines, and for ſubſtituting
> " other and more effectual Proviſions in the Place thereof."

of which I ſend you herewith a Copy; I require you the Sheriff or Under Sheriff of *the County of Suffolk* immediately upon the Receipt of this Notice, to ſend your Precepts to the reſpective Bailiffs, or others who are uſually employed to ſummon Juries, although in Liberties out of your ordinary Juriſdiction, directing them to ſummon the ſeveral Juſtices of the Peace, and Commiſſioners of the Land-tax, in their reſpective Diviſions and Liberties, to attend at the uſual Place of meeting in every Diviſion, upon a certain Day to be named in your Precepts, before the *Twenty fourth* of this Inſtant February (but not within ſix Days after the Date of the ſaid Precepts) to qualify themſelves for the Execution of the ſaid Act, if they have not already qualified, and to proceed in other Reſpects according to the Directions therein given; and as the public Service requires Diſpatch, I muſt recommend it to you to appoint for this Meeting the earlieſt Day within the Time limited as before-mentioned, that is conſiſtent with the Convenience of the Gentlemen of the County, and as ſoon as you have iſſued your Precepts, you are to give Notice to this Office, and to the Admiralty, of the Day you have ſo appointed.

I think proper to obſerve to you, that the preſent Act will be found to differ conſiderably from any Law of the ſame kind, paſſed on former Occaſions; but the Alterations chiefly conſiſt in the Eaſe and Protection which it offers to the Magiſtrates, and others concerned in the Execution of the ſaid Act, and in the many and great Advantages which it offers to all thoſe who are inclined to enter voluntarily into His Majeſty's Service. Notwithſtanding theſe Amendments, the Succeſs of the Law will greatly depend on the Magiſtrates and Gentlemen of the County properly exerting themſelves in carrying it into Execution. I am commanded therefore to ſay, that His Majeſty relies on their Zeal, as well as their Diſcretion, in the Diſcharge of their Duty on this Occaſion; and He truſts, that while they employ the Powers with which they are inveſted, to oblige thoſe to ſerve their Country in the preſent Exigency of public Affairs, who are deſcribed by the Law to be proper Objects of Compulſion, they will at the ſame Time uſe their utmoſt Efforts to induce others to enter Volunteers into His Service, by the Influence which their Characters and Property will neceſſarily give them, and by the ample Encouragements which the Law enables them to hold out for that Purpoſe.

Proper Orders and Inſtructions will be given to Lieutenant General *Pierſon* — who commands in the Diſtrict in which your County lies, from whom, and from all His Majeſty's Officers employed upon this Occaſion, the Commiſſioners may be aſſured of meeting with all proper Attention and Support. It will be neceſſary, that on their Part they ſhould give Notice to the ſaid Lieutenant General *Pierſon* — or to me, of the Time and Place of their ſecond and every ſucceeding Meeting, and of the Parties which they wiſh may be ſent to attend at ſuch Meetings, that proper Orders may be given for that Purpoſe. I recommend however, that the Meetings of the ſeveral Diviſions of each County may, if poſſible, be held on different Days, as it will be more eaſy in ſuch Caſe for the Troops appointed for this Service to give the Attendance that may be required.

I ſhall order a Number of Copies of this Act, with the Articles of War annexed, to be ſent to you, that you may diſtribute them amongſt the Commiſſioners. If it ſhall be thought that in other Reſpects I can be of any Service, I ſhall be happy to receive the Commands of yourſelf, or of the Commiſſioners, and ſhall be ready to diſcharge my Duty, by affording you or them all the Aſſiſtance in my Power.

I am, Sir,

Your moſt obedient,

And moſt humble Servant,

C. JENKINSON.

Sheriff, or Under Sheriff
of the County of *Suffolk*